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may best be illustrated by considering first the Dickens atmosphere of his early days, which he reproduces so successfully that it is sometimes hard to tell where Dickens leaves off and he begins. With this may be contrasted the situation in the *New World*, where old Mark Savage, the blacksmith in the Oregon wilderness, was heard to grumble, "The darn place is getting too thick for me anyhow — there's folks within half a mile of me whichever way I turn!" (p. 164).

It is a pity that Mr. Nash does not record more of his own impressions of the changed legal conditions — but perhaps it is unnecessary. The story speaks for itself. "I opened," he tells us, "a law office in Corvallis and had immediate introduction into the life of the country lawyer. Much was new, and I was often more at a loss than I showed, although I had been making careful study of the Oregon Code and reports and precedents." Imagine the dignified English solicitor who had encountered the greatest difficulty in winning conservative English capitalists over to that novelty, the telephone, transplanted to a place where he not only has to step out of his office and appear in court, but where as lobbyist on behalf of his clients he has to face a crowd of drenched Oregon farmer-legislators, to keep them in good spirits by speech-making while he breaks the news to them that the new railroad which they are inspecting cannot take them back safely to the capital because of the danger of washouts!

The habit of writing such legal autobiographies has not made so much progress on this side of the Atlantic as it has abroad, and for helping to import the charming tone of the English books of this type, Mr. Nash deserves warm appreciation.

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NATHAN ISAACS.

**THE YOUNG MAN AND THE LAW.** By Simeon E. Baldwin. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1920. pp. 160.

Surely no one is better qualified than Judge Baldwin to tell from personal experience the possibilities which lie before a young man who enters the legal profession. In his well-rounded life of more than four-score years, he has been a successful practitioner at the bar, a member of the Commission which made his native State of Connecticut a leader in the reform of procedural law, Associate and later Chief Justice of the highest court of that State, Governor, author, President of the American Bar Association, and for fifty years a professor of law in a great University. Very naturally his account of the legal profession is given in an optimistic tone. His chapter on the Attractions of the Legal Profession is twice as long as that upon the Objections to Choosing the Legal Profession. The book is more optimistic than the briefer and more statistical book on "The Law as a Vocation," by Frederick J. Allen, recently published. (See 33 *HARV. L. REV.* 739.) Although he deals at length with the larger ideals of the profession, Judge Baldwin does not neglect such practical details as the amount of money a lawyer may make, or the danger a lawyer runs of becoming irritable and cross-grained, a nuisance to his wife and children. The book is full of quotations of the words of eminent lawyers from Cicero to Chauncey M. Depew. It is interesting and instructive. A young man pausing on the brink of choosing his life-work should read what the legal profession means to one of its foremost votaries.

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A. W. S.

**INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LAW OF JAPAN.** By J. E. de Becker. Linden: Butterworth and Company. 1919. pp. iii, 149.

This little book purports to give only a general outline of the Japanese Private International Law. Almost one half of its contents is devoted to the

subject of nationality and the position of aliens in Japan. The portion dealing with the Conflict of Laws proper summarizes the principal continental views relating to the subject in hand and states thereupon the rule selected by the Japanese legislator. The treatise is a most elementary one and contains no critical discussion of the subject. There are no references to any decisions nor to the views of Japanese text-writers. As in his many other works on Japanese law the author's object is an extremely practical one, namely, to familiarize Western jurists somewhat with the fundamentals of Japanese law.

Notwithstanding the modest character of the work, it will be welcomed by the students of the Conflict of Laws because it contains a more complete statement of the Japanese law than was available heretofore. Prior to the appearance of this book the only information concerning the Japanese Conflict of Laws accessible to persons not acquainted with the Japanese language was to be found in an article by Yamada, "*Le Droit International Privé au Japon*," 28 CLUNET, 632-639. ERNEST G. LORENZEN.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF INHERITANCE TAXATION. By Lafayette B. Gleason and Alexander Otis. Albany and New York: Matthew Bender and Company. 1919. pp. lxxvii, 1138.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1917, and now some three hundred pages have been added in the second edition. Twenty-five out of fifty jurisdictions have in those two years amended their statutes. This class of legislation, like the income tax situation, is still in the transition period. We hope that the authors will keep us up to date until the statutes harden into permanent form. The second edition is chiefly concerned in this worthy task. The original plan of the book is retained. It is: to discuss the nature of the tax, the transfers taxable, the parties and their interests, residence of the decedent, beneficiaries, exemption, remaindermen, etc.; to give procedure in New York, and statutes. The book also contains tables of mortality used throughout the country and much useful information in regard to stock corporations, and addresses of state officers. While emphasis is laid on New York law, lawyers elsewhere will find the state statutes and many of their local decisions in the earlier part of the book. J. W.